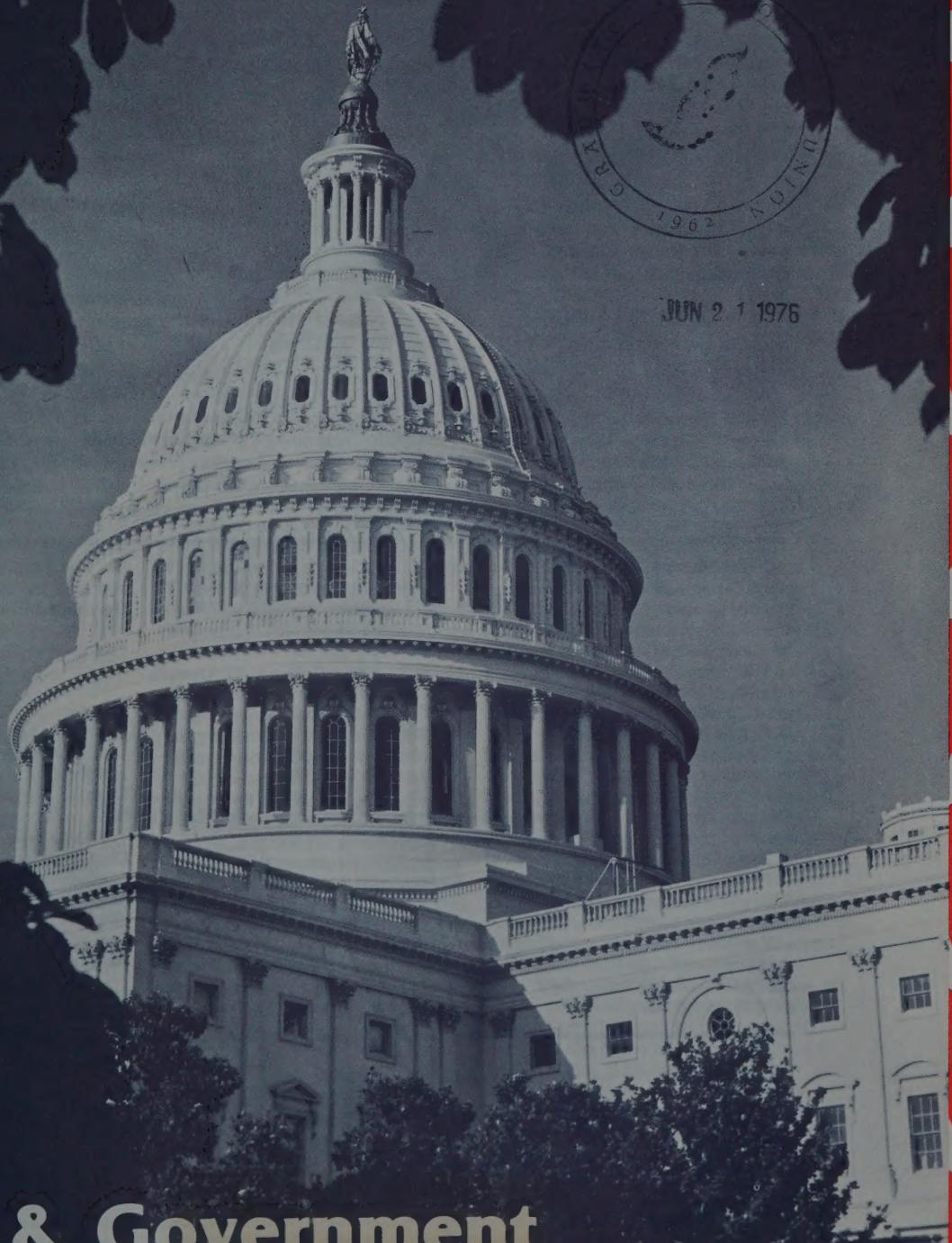


JUNE, 1976

FOURSQUARE WORLD

ADVANCE



JUN 21 1976

God & Government

Happy birthday, America!

This coming 4th of July marks the 200th birthday of our nation and we join with millions of others in honoring our Country in this Bicentennial year.

Over the past two hundred years, great and tragic events have transpired on our soil. Some of the great events have included, firstly, the founding of our nation which was destined to be great. The invention of modern machinery, communications and transportation followed. The first man, an American, to set foot on the moon was a highlight of this century's accomplishments. God was to bless our land beyond measure and we were in turn to be a blessing to others.

A shadow over our brief history was the era of slavery which brought about a civil war. We continue to pay, to this day, for this dark page in our past. Certainly we have made other errors and are paying for these, too, but in this year of 1976 we continue to realize God's mercies new to us every day.

America has always been a land which offered hope, a new beginning, a brighter tomorrow and the opportunity to fulfill one's dreams. And this "land of opportunity" embraced, from all parts of the world, immigrants with a dream. My own great-great grandfather crossed the Atlantic from Spain to find fulfillment in America. He with countless others from faraway lands have given birth over the last few centuries to a new people with a

new culture and in many ways a new world as our influence has touched every nation of this planet. Today, people from many lands continue to find America the "land of opportunity" and freedom.

In our Bicentennial celebration, may we not forget our true identity. The primary purpose our forefathers reached out to a new land was to enjoy religious freedom. Thus, our nation was founded on Christian principles; it did not happen by accident. The need for religious training and the preparation of men for the ministry gave birth to our nation's early institutions of learning. But, our Christian influence did not stop there for we soon reached beyond our borders to other lands with missionary personnel and financial support for the propagation of the Gospel. Our Country has also extended a "helping hand" to many nations in times of need and adversity.

Today the world desperately needs America...a Godly America. If we are to meet this need we must first fulfill the requirements of II Chronicles 7:14 which is the prayer of Foursquare Churches for our nation in this Bicentennial year.

This June ADVANCE is dedicated to the 200th birthday of our Country's founding. May the message of its pages challenge and inspire each reader to be the person God needs in this hour, for America is made up of people...individuals. You are America. Happy birthday! 4

A Tri-District Convention (Eastern, Great Lakes and Southeast Districts) was conducted at Mt. Vernon Bible College in Ohio, April 20-22. This was followed by the MVBC Orientation for graduating students. Headquarters officers attending these functions included: Rolf K. McPherson, President; Dr. and Mrs. M. E. Nicholls, General Supervisor; Dr. Leland Edwards, Director of Foreign Missions; and Dr. Vincent R. Bird, International Director of Youth and Christian Education. Rev. Paul Risser, Pastor of the Florence Ave., Ca. Foursquare Church and International officer also ministered at the Convention.

President Rolf K. McPherson was present for the Bellevue, Fl. Dedication Service of their new church held on April 25.

The first service to be telecast from **Angelus Temple** took place on Easter Sunday evening. This live telecast appeared on the Los Angeles, Ca. Channel 40 station.

LIFE Bible College of Canada was privileged to have **President Rolf K. McPherson** as commencement speaker at their recent graduation exercises. Commencement services at **LIFE Bible College** in Los Angeles and **Mt. Vernon Bible College** in Ohio were held May 21 and 12, respectively.

The 11th Pentecostal World Conference will take place Sept. 28-Oct. 2 in London, England. Speakers from many areas of the world will minister at the conference services. A 23-day **Foursquare tour** will be held in connection with the conference and will be hosted by

Dr. and Mrs. Merrill Nicholls and escorted by **Dr. and Mrs. Earl W. Dorrance**. Countries to be visited will include Scotland, England, France and Spain. It is not too late to sign up for the tour.

Pastors, youth leaders and youth will converge on Maranatha Bible Camp in North Platte, Ne., June 14-18 for the first **Foursquare Youth Leadership Congress**. **Rev. Dan Ussery**, Director of Youth Ministries, will head the Congress.

The **La Puente, Ca., Foursquare Church** recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Pastor James Ritch has served this church for 20 of its 25 years.

PRESENT WITH THE LORD

Pearl Early, Richard Gentry, Beulah Johnson, Alonzo Tillotson.

ADVANCE

Official Publication of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, 1100 Glendale Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90026.

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VOLUME 12, NUMBER 9, JUNE, 1976

PEOPLE:

Aimee Semple McPherson acknowledging servicemen in Sunday Evening Service.



Old Glory & Saving Grace

Dr. Raymond Cox

If God had permitted Aimee Semple McPherson to continue her ministry into America's Bicentennial year, the founder of the Church of the Foursquare Gospel would doubtless have moved in the forefront of those spearheading celebration of the nation's 200th birthday.

Sister McPherson considered patriotism almost a natural consequence of dedicated Christian experience and expression. As a wholesome flagwaver she challenged the religious world as George M. Cohan swayed the entertainment world. Her Americanism emphasis, moreover, always reflected good taste. She never indulged in wreckless agitation, abuse, or extremism, as did some of the self-styled champions of patriotism in the 1920's, 30's, and 40's.

America has changed much since God called Sister McPherson home in 1944 as World War II was heading for its wind up, and will keep on changing. The kind of patriotic involvement which she sponsored wholeheartedly would seem somewhat of an anachronism today, though certain factors which have become passe might prove wholesome if revived and revised to suit the times. Sister,

as almost everyone called her, proved virtually always a leader rather than a follower during her ministry and would certainly have modified the format of her patriotic emphasis in order to achieve greater impact for Christ as well as country.

The great depression unleashed enormous unrest which subversive ideologies endeavored to exploit with a view to altering drastically—even to overthrowing—America's form of government. Sister sized up the situation quite early as representing as much a crusade against faith as a crusade against capitalism and democracy. At that time Communists were less subtle than they are today in prosecuting their economic and atheistic policies. Many called openly for replacing Old Glory with the Red Flag. Mrs. McPherson pleaded for rededication to the faith of America's founding fathers and resisted inroads by Communism, and later Facism and Nazism, as these ideologies mounted boisterous propaganda offensives soliciting support.

Her famous patriotic lecture, "America, Awake," picturing Miss Columbia asleep on the Capitol steps, was heard in scores of cities across the country, usually vividly dramatized in the style of the illustrated sermons she pioneered.

Sister had done her homework and had the facts concerning

the spiritual heritage which graced America from the time of the Pilgrim Fathers. She documented quotations which remove all doubt that as originally constituted, the United States represented in its traditions a decidedly Christian nation. And she warned eloquently that erosion of that spiritual heritage could very well threaten America's national survival.

World War II raged during the last five years of our founder's ministry, and this Canadian-born evangelist rallied multitudes in support of her adopted country. Each Sunday evening she invited all servicemen present to the platform where she knelt with them in prayer after giving them New Testaments. A patriotic musical package was part of many of these services attended weekly by thousands of tourists who went home challenged by the pageantry as well as by the preaching. Black light illuminated phosphorescently several American flags in the darkened auditorium, as choir, band, and soloists ministered. When the Treasury Department brought out war bonds and stamps, Sister put these on sale at the Temple and did a land office business on many Sunday nights.

"Victory House" in Pershing Square downtown Los Angeles was a mecca for political and entertainment celebrities who vied with each other to set new records in crowds and sales and stamps. Twice Mrs. McPherson was invited to minister there. She conducted what amounted to revival meetings, complete with choir and band and altar call. Her appearances broke by far all records both for attendances and sales. On each occasion she asked all present to kneel for a few minutes and pray for America. The thousands complied. At the close of the rallies she autographed War Stamp Books for purchasers.

On many Sunday evenings Sister presented patriotic sermons.

Aimee Semple McPherson has been with Jesus for almost 32 years, but the church she founded continues to stand for Christian patriotism. We pray not only, "God, bless America," but also, "God, save America." [4]



Foursquare Churches are Making the Bicentennial Count with Events for the Whole Community

From coast to coast and north to south, Foursquare Churches have been commemorating our country's 200th birthday through various Bicentennial ministries. "Bells of celebration" have been ringing to remind us of our national heritage and to capture the attention of the unsaved, with the hope that these Bicentennial ministries will bring to them true liberty known only in a personal knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING:

Many Foursquare Churches are participating in a special day of prayer and fasting for our nation on the first Friday of each month throughout this Bicentennial year. Believing the admonition of II Chronicles 7:14 and I Timothy 2:1 and 2, Christians throughout the nation are making intercession for federal, state and local leadership as well as praying for a spiritual awakening in America.

DOVER, OHIO

The Foursquare Gospel Church of Dover, Ohio challenged their church and community with the musical presentation, "I Love America". This one hour musical and narration, which was presented on two evenings, emphasizes America's spiritual heritage, excites love and respect for the United States and exhorts all Americans to return to a walk that places God first in their lives, homes and nation.

The Dover Foursquare Church has used a musical presentation as a vehicle of ministry to the community for the last several years. The response has been gratifying with the community anticipating each year's presentation. The local radio station, WJER has aired the musical presentation each year for their listening audience.

This was the church's most ambitious undertaking in the area of correlated dress, costum-

ing and background art work. The 45-voice choral was the largest to date. The entire presentation involved 75 people (all from the local church) which included a special children's tribute to America. Over 600 people were in attendance at the two performances of the musical.

NEW CASTLE, INDIANA:

The New Castle, Indiana Foursquare Church is engaged in a Bicentennial Sunday School Enlargement Program entitled, "Let Freedom Ring". This enlargement program has already resulted in their reaching a record high of 534 in their Sunday School as mass calling and canvassing have been carried on by many of the classes.

Each month in the Sunday School a different patriotic theme is carried on with various activities and ministries innovated to carry out the theme. January's theme, "Freedom to Petition" emphasized reaching their Sunday School enrollment and realizing a class increase over the previous month. February was the month of "Freedom of Speech" with emphasis on Heart Sunday, for "...out of the heart, the mouth speaketh" (Matt. 12:34).

March stressed, "Freedom to Assemble" with 34 Captains of the Pews appointed. Their responsibility was to "Pack their Pew" on the High Sunday for the month. During the month of April the theme, "Freedom of Religion" was carried out as everyone was encouraged to exercise this freedom by reading God's Word together in a "Biblethon". The total chapters read were recorded by a thermometer in the foyer.

The Sunday of May 23rd everyone is encouraged to attend church dressed in attire "out of the past". "Commitment to My Country" will be observed throughout the month of June with emphasis on our Civil Government. The Sheriff of Madison County and six local policemen will

be present on June 20th.

The Sunday School Bicentennial Enlargement Program will continue through the month of July with special music presented by church talent featured on the morning of July 4th.

FLORENCE AVENUE, CALIFORNIA

During the month of February, 200 guests filled the Florence Avenue Foursquare Church Fellowship Hall on a Saturday evening for their Sunday School Bicentennial Banquet.

An All-American dinner of roast beef and apple pie was served by ladies and lads dressed in 18th century costumes. Walls and tables reflected the theme with patriotic murals and centerpieces of red, white and blue.

The guests of honor were a group of senior citizens of the church who were sponsored by other members for the event. A lovely program, including patriotic music, preceded the guest speaker.

Mrs. Azat Maljanian, who was born on the slopes of Mt. Ararat, was the banquet speaker. She told her intriguing story of her persecution and imprisonment by the Communists because of her refusal to denounce Christ. As a young, but determined school teacher, she escaped and fled to America. She admonished everyone present not to take for granted the religious freedom that is a vital part of their American heritage.

MUIR, PENNSYLVANIA:

"Celebrate America" is the theme that the Muir, Pennsylvania Foursquare Church is utilizing throughout the year of '76.

Throughout the year, various symbols and truths of freedom will be highlighted in the church services. This will be done by means of: A skit in full costume and accompanying props; a film; a reenactment of a phase of our history; a display; or a multi-media presentation.

During the month of June, a display of the various flags which have played a part in America's history will be displayed. These flags were prepared by the students of the Muir Foursquare Christian Academy. The Sunday of July 4th will highlight a special patriotic multi-media spectacular entitled, "America the Beautiful".

A very important outreach ministry of this church is their annual Easter pageant (full stage production with music and lighting) presented at the local high school. This year's pageant included two segments: (1) A prophetic drama and musical centered on the Second Coming of Christ entitled, "It's About Time" and; (2) "Celebrate America"—a musical presented by the 40-voice church youth choir.

Three performances of this pageant were presented in Muir with a combined audience of over 2,000 attending. Three hundred expressed



a desire to accept Christ as their Savior at the Muir performances.

The cast of 150 members travelled over 100 miles to Greencastle, Pa. where two performances were presented to over 1,200 who attended.

REPLY FROM THE PRESIDENT:

During the 1976 International Foursquare Convention, the convention body approved a resolution which was sent in letter form by Dr. Rolf K. McPherson to President Gerald Ford, the White House, Washington, D.C. (See April, 1976 ADVANCE).

The following reply was received by Dr. McPherson from President Ford:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 18, 1976

Dear Dr. McPherson:

Your thoughtful message of support and prayers meant a great deal to me. I am grateful for your friendship and I am encouraged to know that I have your confidence and goodwill.

Sincerely,

Rolf K. McPherson, D.D.
President
International Church of the
Foursquare Gospel
Angelus Temple
1100 Glendale Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90026

Dover, Ohio Foursquare Church's 45-voice choral; Patriotic mural paintings are displayed across entire front of Angelus Temple; Bicentennial kites awarded children on "Surprise Sunday" in New Castle, Ind. Foursquare Church; Wayne Siner of Florence Ave., Ca. Foursquare Church dresses appropriately for Bicentennial Banquet; Segment of Muir, Pa. Foursquare Church's youth choir.

"It is a little known fact that Christopher Columbus claims to have discovered America under the influence of the Holy Spirit."

FORUM:

Do Americans Take Their Freedoms For Granted?

AUDREY HINGLEY:

Probably one of the lesser-known facts surrounding the discovery of America are these words penned by Christopher Columbus in his journal: "It was the Lord who put into my mind... to sail from here to the Indies... There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He confronted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Scriptures."

Columbus was an industrious student of geography and although he was not the first man to think of reaching the East by sailing west, he was the first to do anything about it. The irony of his discovery is that he died still thinking he had been in the fringes of the Far East, and that he wasn't even honored in the naming of the land he had discovered! Beginning with Columbus' heritage, America has a legacy of Christianity and that legacy is one which still makes America the best country in the world in which to live, despite its faults, problems and mistakes.

The freedom to worship God as one chooses was one of the first ten amendments ratified as part of the Constitution, and this freedom remains the most important to Christians determined to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to "Go...into all the world, and preach the gospel..." (Mark 16:15).

While you are reading this brief article, somewhere in the world one of your brothers or sisters in Christ is imprisoned, undergoing persecution, or even being tortured for bearing the name "Christian." Reverend Richard Wurmbrand, an evangelical minister who spent 14 years in Communist torture and imprisonment in his Rumanian homeland, points out in his book, *Tortured for Christ*, "It must be understood that there are no nominal, halfhearted, lukewarm Christians in Russia or China. The price Christians pay is far too great." But Reverend Wurmbrand goes on to point out that persecution in these countries has backfired and produced serious, dedicated, soul-winning Christians rarely seen in free lands. "These people cannot understand how anyone can be a Christian and not want to win every soul they meet," he writes.

God has blessed those of us who live in America with a rare advantage: freedom to serve Him! And the Bible reminds us that to whom much is given, much is required (Matt. 25:14). What are we doing with that freedom?

Are we dedicated, as individuals, to adding souls to God's family? Or do we merely invite people to church and shift the responsibility of winning people to Christ to the pastor?

And we must PRAY for America! Paul considered this a top priority when he wrote in I Timothy 2:1, "...First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY" (ASV).

Paul realized that good government facilitates the spread of the Gospel, and we still have the freedom to spread it. What we do with that freedom may well be the key factor in the evangelization of the world for Jesus Christ.

DANIEL MONCIVAIZ:

Perhaps, because I have lived more than 20 years outside of the United States as a missionary in a foreign country, I see freedom in a slightly different way than many Americans. Having lived in a country where freedom is proclaimed, but exercised within limitations and sometimes even with fear, I believe that freedom can be appreciated in its fullest only when there is the right to exercise it and when there is the ability to freely express one's feelings and thoughts.

What a wonderful feeling to be in this great country where I can use any medium of communication to preach the Gospel, vote for the candidate of my own choosing and express my opinions regarding the administration of my government without the fear of being threatened, fined or incarcerated. But with the many freedoms that we can exercise, I have been appalled and shocked to see how the feelings of fellow human beings are often disregarded. People often speak without the slightest

*Audrey Hingley, St. Petersburg, Fla. Foursquare Church.
Dr. Daniel Moncivaiz - Pastor,
Latin Congregation, Angelus Temple.*



thought of the hurt and problems they can cause others and sometimes it even seems that such ill-thought remarks are accompanied with the happy thoughts, "I got to him," or "I really told him off." In exercising our freedoms of speech and the pursuit of individual life, liberty and happiness to the maximum, we often minimize our sensitivity as human beings and neglect the respect and consideration of others. It is no wonder that we see our government putting an avalanche of laws into effect; they have to keep reminding us of the limitations of our freedom.

I see, too, that in the name of individual freedom, some of our laws have encouraged libertinism, and man, thereby, going to the extremes in abusing the freedoms that their laws proclaim. Hopefully, the old adage, "One never knows what he has until he loses it" will not become a reality with regard to American freedom.

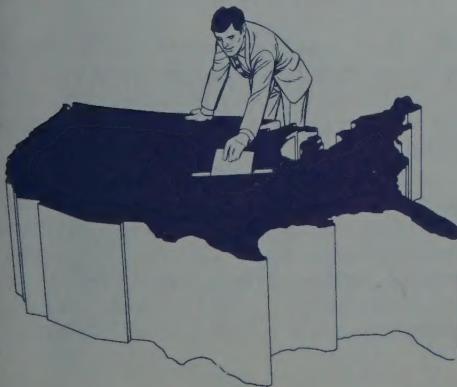
Thank God for the freedom that we are able to enjoy in the United States of America, but let us accept the responsibility that accompanies freedom if we wish to continue reaping the wealth and richness that true freedom affords.

EDWARD DAWSON:

Are we losing our Freedom of Speech? No. Not as we usually think of that constitutionally, protected right. Legal limitations restrict certain exercises of speech. We are not, for example, to shout "Fire" in a crowded theater, or slander another person. The right to speak is protected or restricted based on judicial precedent and reason.

As a lawyer and Christian, I am disturbed by the willingness, and by some the dedicated desire, to remove the people from access to the judiciary and place their rights in the hands of bureaus and bureaucrats. This is but one step further from the source of governmental power, God Himself.

The move from responsibility can be seen in labels as well as in substance: "No fault" divorce; "liberated" women; "no fault" insurance; "charity" by right; children's "rights" to disobey parents; criminal's "rights", etc. There



is much to be said in each of these areas. We need discernment. We need to speak life on public issues as well as in purely, spiritual matters.

Children desire to speak without responsibility. Any of us can succumb to that attitude. Our speech is just that—OUR speech! Appointing an agent (government) does not relieve us of the responsibility of our agent's acts.

We, Americans speak our minds more and more without regard to consequences. Each says what he, in his heart, believes. With this comes responsibility. The issue I speak to is, "Liberty versus license." For this purpose "liberty" being defined as freedom WITH responsibility and "license" as freedom FROM responsibility.

But, first, does what we say really make a difference? Should we be concerned about our right to, and use of words? Jesus' first recorded words after his anointing for ministry included, "Man shall...live...by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). Apparently, God's words are important. As ambassadors of God, we also create. Isaiah 57:19 states, "I create the fruit of the lips..."

The Jews were much less reluctant to speak to Moses than to God. They progressively exercised more vocal expression with Aaron, and then tribal leaders, then clansmen, etc. The result of their license was disastrous.

The question is, Will we use our freedom to speak life and correction, or exercise a license to speak death and destruction? Have we literally spoken into existence, by reason of the authority of our words, many of our national problems? Do we pray, "Lord give us good government" and then do something about it? Or do we say, "Our government has met its doom" and do nothing? Fifteen million legally, qualified Christians are not even registered to vote. It's our choice.

Our original, national concern was to be able to look government right in the eye. The town meeting represented transparent conversation for good. Even as we grew, the effect of our physical distances was overcome by technical innovations. However, our conversation with government has become more distant. Comitant with that, our responsibility for what we say has moved generally from liberty to license. It is no longer "us", but "them" that are responsible.

We, as Christians, are the spokesman of God. We are the temples out of which should flow the Spirit of God (John 4:14, Ezek. 47:1-12).

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ...Amen" (I Pet. 4:11).

"Have Christians spoken into existence, by their unbelief, many of our national problems?

Fifteen million legally qualified Christians are not even registered to vote."

Edward Dawson, Spokane Valley, Wash. Foursquare Church.



God & Government

Christians Hold the Key to a Healed Land

Following the lines of the Federal Government, the state of Oregon ruled that to display the Nativity scene in our public schools is unconstitutional. This ruling, as well as similar rulings, points out our need to consider: Where we have been as a people; where we shall move as a people; and what our history is. Let us examine the basis for our belief that the United States of America has a particular place in the hand and plan of God as a Christian nation. In so doing, consider with me the foundation and the principles upon which we, as a nation, came into being:

1. *The Supreme Court declares judicially that the United States of America is a Christian nation.*

On February 29, 1892, the Court officially recognized that the United States of America was founded upon Christian principles and these principles came from the Holy Bible, which is the Word of God. From that day, these principles were the guiding factor of all that the Court did.

2. *The Declaration of Independence acknowledges that we have certain unalienable Rights endowed by our Creator and that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. It further declares, "...All men are created equal," and "...they are endowed by their Creator."*

This was the first time in human history that such was declared for a nation. This is a frank admission that God is our Creator! It was established by the Declaration of Independence that we recognize ONE Creator.

3. *The Great Seal of the United States declares that we are a part of God.*

4. *Every President that has taken office in the United States has made his oath to office with his hand upon a Bible.*

5. *"In God We Trust" is inscribed upon all our currency.*

6. *There are Bibles in nearly every courtroom.*

7. *There are Chaplains in the Congress of the United States to pray for Congress. They can be found in the armed forces.*

8. *The term "Under God" is in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.*

There is innumerable evidence that testifies that we are a Christian people (not that everyone in the nation is a Christian) and that everything we have has come out of the concept that God is the Lord. Not only does our Government recognize that we are a religious nation,

but that we are a Christian nation. It was not a matter of plurality of religions; it was a statement that we are a *Christian* nation.

9. *The United States Government recognizes the Lord's Day.*

In Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution, it reads: "If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted), after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it . . ." The reason is plain to see that the Founding Fathers recognized Sunday as the Lord's Day, and they wanted to give the nation and all of the officials an opportunity to enter into worship, if they so desired, and that no Government business would interfere with worship on Sunday.

10. *Article VI of the Constitution requires that all Constitutional Officers of both National and State Government, "Shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution".*

The question arises, What is an oath? The answer was given in 1828 in a catechism or study on the Constitution which states: "An Oath is a solemn calling upon God, who knows our hearts, the hearts of all men, and will call every man to account for his conduct in this world. To bear witness, that what a man says is true, or that what he promises, he means to perform". Not calling upon a god, but upon ALMIGHTY GOD. And that is the basis on which every public official steps into office—the recognition of God in Heaven.

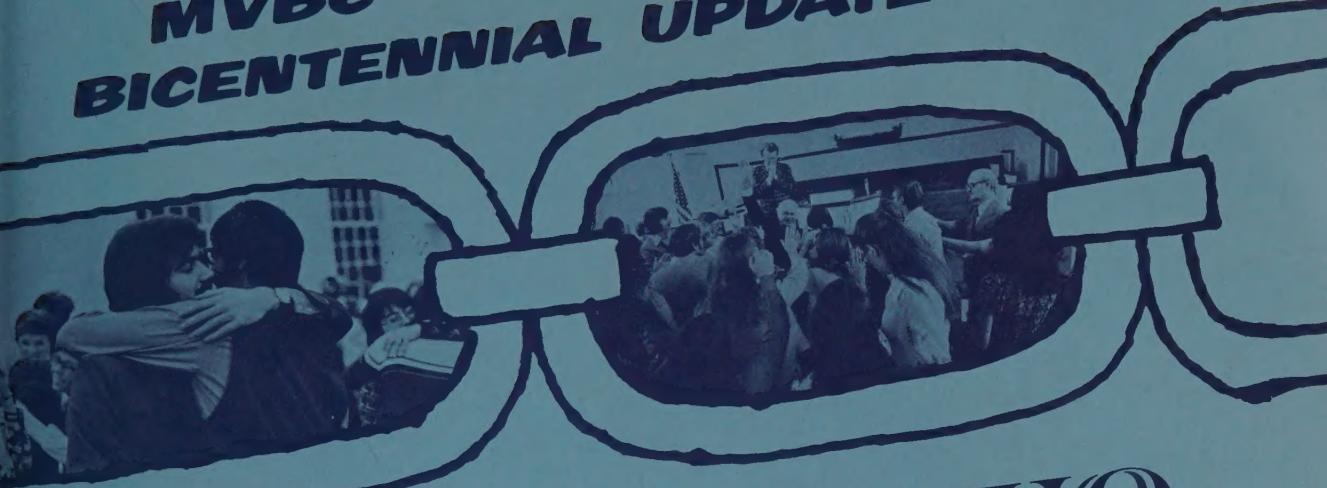
George Washington, along with the 38 others in the Constitutional Convention, signed the Constitution beneath these words: "Done in Convention by the unanimous consent of the states present on the seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven." Who is "our Lord" in this case? "Our Lord" refers only to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus was born in a little city of Bethlehem some 1,787 years before the Constitution was signed. Today our nation refuses to acknowledge, publicly, the birth of Jesus Christ as Lord.

The people who built the foundation and framework of American freedom, understood the following truth that was stated by William Penn long before the Declaration of Independence was written: "Those people who will not be governed by God, must be ruled by tyrants". Today terrorism is sweeping across the nations

**"The people
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a government
secure under
God, or
tyranny."**

MVBC BICENTENNIAL UPDATE



GOD IS MOVING...

BY BOB ARMSTRONG

During this Bicentennial year, our hearts go out to our fellow countrymen. The true heroes of our country — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Nathan Hale, Paul Revere — they linked together in a unique oneness.

That oneness gave us life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness — and freedom of worship. We, in this 200th anniversary year, seek that same kind of oneness . . . in a sense.

Our founding fathers' spirit was envisioned by other Americans. Their spirit set off a chain reaction.

In the exact same way, we are anxious to link the Body of Christ with our fellowmen who are lost, through witnessing . . . in the local church, the Bible College, the international missions outreach, home missions, and the outstanding Foursquare camping program.

Acts 1:8 tells us, "Ye shall be witnesses . . ."

Mount Vernon Bible College and the local Foursquare Church are the two common links uniting the chain of Christian love around the world. The Missions outreach—at home and worldwide, and the dynamic camping program are two other links which help strengthen the entire chain.

No chain is stronger than its weakest link. And thanks to the MOVING of the Holy Spirit, all Foursquare links are strong . . . God is moving by His Spirit! The forces of evil are being crushed as we, as Christians, pull together in our "common cause" of saving lost souls — the sole purpose of our entire chain . . . and MVBC.

Organization of the local church is God's will for the unbroken chain. The local church supplies "raw material" to forge all other links. Foursquare churches are springing up all over the country as people — in these last days — experience the power and moving of the Holy Spirit . . . in nearly 800 churches in the United States and Canada.

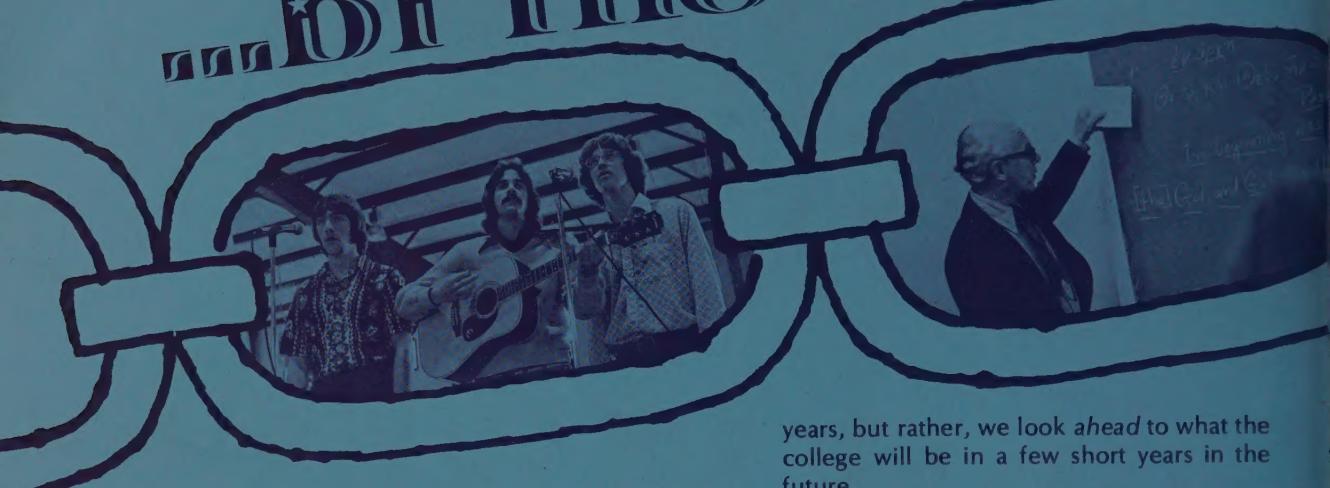
It is a real privilege for Mount Vernon Bible College to supply pastors and to "fill pulpits" every year. Not only is the local church a real "proving ground" for our graduates — but the local church is a ripe harvest field of souls which can never be neglected.

MVBC graduates serve in several capacities in the local church . . . as pastors, youth and music ministers. Several MVBC students are in graduate schools preparing for various ministries.

Money to make all the links a moving force with God comes usually from the local church. Naturally this strengthens the entire chain . . . and more can be accomplished for the Lord and His Kingdom.

**"Our
Founding
Fathers'
spirit
set off
a chain
reaction."**

...BY HIS SPIRIT



Mount Vernon Bible College, with almost 300 students at mid-term, links and supplies leaders to all the other links. MVBC graduates, 87% of them, are in full-time Christian service. Our aim is to prepare these future leaders to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every land by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

MVBC exists solely to train and encourage young men and women for a lifetime of service to Jesus Christ. We are committed to the principles and disciplines of New Testament Christianity. Our goal at MVBC is to lead students into a deep knowledge of Jesus Christ . . . conforming to His image and a surrender to the Holy Spirit. The task of MVBC is to teach the Scriptures — the revelation of God's will, and to urge total reliance upon the power of God.

On beautifully-landscaped 335 acres of rolling hills in central Ohio, MVBC began in 1957 . . . with an initial class of 33, with only four instructors. Each member of this truly pioneer class found time to assist in the painting and plastering of the building along with keeping his studies up. Their extracurricular activities also included growing crops on the fertile farmland to help the income of the school.

Since that very formative first year, the Lord has continued to bless with numerous additions of buildings, faculty and students.

We are not content to sit back and reflect how the Lord has blessed the college in past

years, but rather, we look ahead to what the college will be in a few short years in the future.

Never again will MVBC be looked upon as a struggling, second-rate Bible college. Thanks be unto God that MVBC has risen above many of its initial problems — and now stands proud — a sound, solid, first-class Bible college! We look ahead with great spiritual, physical and professional fervor to a sound economic future and to what the Lord has in store for us.

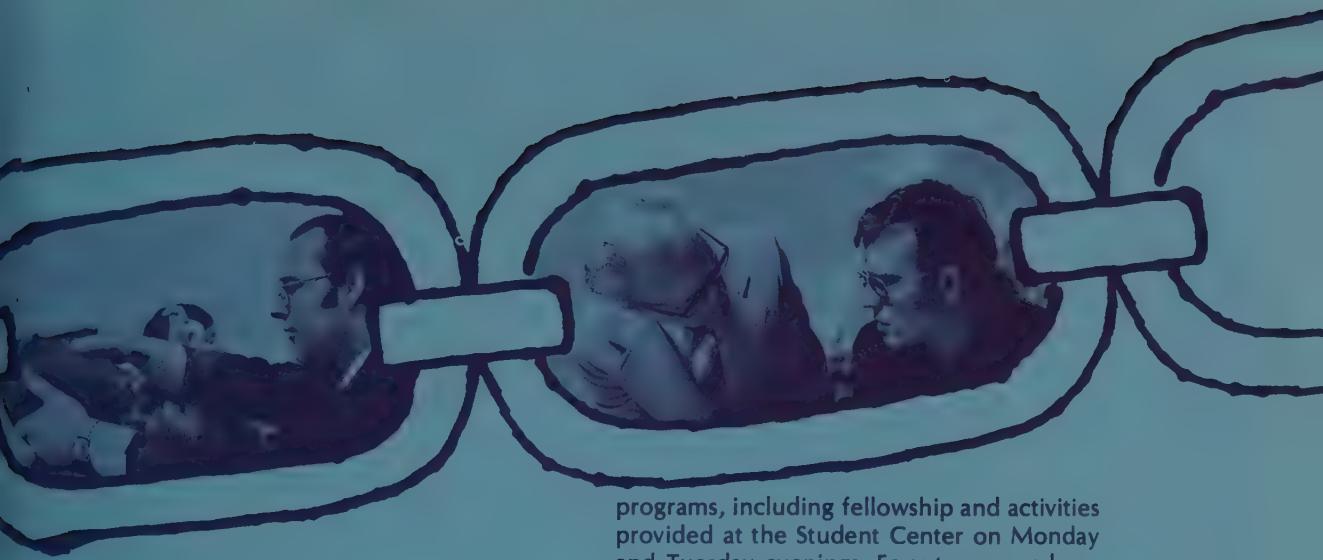
God is moving . . . by His Spirit!

Looking at 1975 as a progressive year of growing pains, we saw many achievements and changes: Charles Middlebrook's appointment as Academic Dean, Glenn Nicholls joining us as Dean of Students, Tom Pentecost organizing our Stewardship Department, Glenn McAnally being named MVBC's pastor, and Jerry Fulham coming as the first full-time head of our Music Department.

Planning for the future is a subject highlighting 1976 . . . and will continue to do so throughout the coming years. As we see the need of building a new dormitory, many challenges face us . . . and many ideas and suggestions are being examined. We have now engaged an architectural firm to draw our Master Plan for the campus . . . the beginning of a new era!

God is truly moving . . . by His Spirit!

In its near 20 year existence, MVBC has moved forward — its link being strengthened daily. MVBC rejoices of its strength through the close-knit family atmosphere which pervades the entire campus.



“... and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

God is moving in Foursquare foreign missions also. The phenomenal development and expansion in this area now encompasses over 2,800 mission stations in 31 countries of the world, served by nearly 150 American and over 3,000 national missionaries. Many MVBC graduates are now in full-time service on various mission fields, such as: Harold and Cherie Meutzel, and Ron and Charlotte Meyers, in Korea; Jerry and Jenny King, in Central America; and Laura Darling, in Guatemala . . . all MVBC graduates.

Foursquare Gospel literature, tracts, and materials are given out that relate to the cultures of those who have too long never been *linked* to the rest of the world . . . and more important, to our Lord.

Each link of this Foursquare chain depends upon the strength of each of the other links.

Home Missions is another important link with various unique ministries and opportunities here. At MVBC, all students take part in the Christian Service Council . . . with numerous home mission “projects”. To many people served by this Council, these students are their only *link* to Jesus Christ!

There are prayer circles and sharing on a one-to-one basis at times. Almost every week there is a commitment made for the Lord and about 26 men and six girls have received the Holy Spirit. Doors have been opened for water baptism and two have been baptized.

A Methodist Youth Ministry is held Sunday evenings where 15 - 20 teenagers are reached weekly. There is a variety of different

programs, including fellowship and activities provided at the Student Center on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Four teenagers have made a total commitment to the Lord and one has received the Holy Spirit.

Students minister as the Lord leads and moves by His Spirit to women at Eastern Star Home. This ministry has continued for approximately ten years consecutively . . . another link to God's soul-saving power!

Various couples and students minister weekly in Foursquare churches throughout the area. God continues to heal bodies, mend broken hearts and families, and save lives in these weekly services.

MVBC musical groups constantly share His love with others.

“Singers of Praise” minister very effectively in word and song to churches. They began when they learned Bill Gaither’s “Alleluia”. They are now learning Jimmy and Carol Owens’ “If My People”.

“A New Song”, made up of basketball players and other talented students, minister in churches. They are well received wherever they go.

Camping programs are “feeders” for MVBC. These camps provide training for counselors, while at the same time people are being blessed. To many youngsters, these camping programs are their only link to the spiritual life, enjoyed here at MVBC.

Counselors are trained . . . total commitment is exemplified . . . lives are completely changed . . . as MVBC students witness every year in Foursquare camps.

We generally have one faculty couple in each camp, plus 6 - 30 students in each camp as counselors and workers. Countless numbers of young people are influenced for Christ and are called into full-time Christian

**“MVBC
links and
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all the
other
links.”**

service through the college student's lives, examples and witness.

Close to 3,000 young people are directly affected each camping season. Only in eternity will we know to what extent the camping program has meant for His Kingdom.

The future of the chain, and its various links, depends strictly upon you. To put it simply . . . you have the opportunity to forge a key link. The opportunity is yours to support MVBC . . . a very vital and necessary link that strengthens HIS chain.

Wednesday evenings is the time for the jail ministry. There are Bibles provided for each person that attends the meeting, so they will be able to take part in the Bible study or open discussion.

To supply churches, foreign missionaries, home missions, camping programs . . . won't you link up to MVBC with your generous support?

For example, your gift of \$25 a month will provide a "gap" scholarship for one student (A "gap" scholarship is the difference in what the student pays and what it actually costs the college to provide education for one year).

MVBC . . . this all-important link . . . could be the only contact that someone has with Jesus Christ. No matter how small the amount of your tax-deductible gift . . . **lives will be changed and blessed as a DIRECT RESULT of your efforts!**

yes,

I want to help strengthen a vital link! I realize that MVBC might be the *only* link that some people might have with Christ.

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25 \$10 \$_____ \$50 \$5

This is my cash gift.

This is my monthly commitment for future souls.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

"Give, and it shall be given unto you . . ." (Luke 6:38)

God's Promise to YOU!



This is *not* an obligation . . . but an OPPORTUNITY for God to bless you! Luke 6:38 tells us, "Give, and it shall be given unto you".

This is an opportunity not afforded our founding fathers 200 years ago.

During this Bicentennial year, won't you reach out in faith to your fellow countrymen — help link them to our Saviour.

GOD IS MOVING . . . BY HIS SPIRIT.
Won't you join God's move?

(Please clip along dotted line, and mail with your gift in an envelope to: MVBC, 7516 Johnstown Rd., Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050).



of the world. Our nation's officials are telling us that the United States is heading for a reign of terror by intimidation through bombings, assassinations, kidnappings. William Penn, at that point, acted as a Prophet.

Our Founding Fathers knew that whenever faith goes out of the heart of man, it creates a vacuum and that vacuum will be filled with tyrants—a dictatorship. When people cease to govern and control themselves under the laws of God, it is inevitable that an all-powerful civil authority will move in to preserve order and life, and it will be done at the loss of all personal liberty. There is no other way. In time, that civil government becomes a very despotic government which will reject anything that opposes it.

We see those frightening evils spreading around us, simply because those beautiful, golden conjunctions of "God and Country" and "God and Government" have been eroded. They are being destroyed and nearly demolished. We are watching the birth of official atheism in the United States. This is the stance required by our Federal Government. No God will be acknowledged. Our nation will become more and more humanistic, then it will become atheistic and finally pagan. This trend will change only if the people of God determine that they will reshape the lines by which this nation shall be governed.

Until the year of 1948 the Supreme Court of the United States held a standard, and that standard of judgment which they were to follow was: "...a standard of accepted Christian conduct on the basis of the Christian ethics, all judgment of the United States would be based." In 1948 the Supreme Court declared the use of school time and school facilities for religious instruction unconstitutional. It declared "The First Amendment has erected a wall between Church and State which must be kept impregnable". What happened to the standard of Christian conduct? What happened to the acknowledgement by our nation of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord? To fix a wall between the State and the Church, precisely, so that it cannot ever be crossed by one or the other is totally impossible. Christianity and Government have been poled together even before the Declaration of Independence, and from that time every official document brings together the Christian faith and our nation.

The next decision came in June, 1962 when it was declared unconstitutional to recite a voluntary prayer in our schools expressing dependence upon Almighty God.

We are in the seventies and because of its Christian principle, it has been declared unconstitutional to declare the birth of Jesus Christ in state and government institutions. This brings

us to within a hair's breath of officially becoming an atheistic nation in which the name of God cannot be mentioned by a public official. This will lead to the destruction of the foundation upon which all of our liberties have been based. We are standing at that point, now. Atheism is being given an open field to be declared on every corner, while Christianity can only be mentioned in the Church. Do you see the seed? Do you see the fruits? It can only bring one harvest.

Tragically, atheism, in itself, is a religion. It is powerful. It is a force that is adhered to, and is followed. No religion in the public schools or in the State at large is to establish, not separation, but anti-religion. By a legal act we have declared ourselves constitutionally and officially against religion. The First Amendment says that Congress shall make no law establishing a religion, but apparently the courts may do so by establishing no religion as the formal faith of our nation.

Man is going to have a god. Man must worship and if God is not his source of allegiance he will worship man, institutions, a country. He will worship power, or wealth. We are now in the process of transferring our faith in God to the gods of wood, stubble and hay.

What can we do? We can:

- Teach our children and young people the fundamental principles of American ideals and of our faith in God.
- Speak out for our heritage in our schools and precincts.
- Elect true Americans. We must put principle above party.
- Rededicate ourselves to the God of our Fathers.

The Scripture declares, "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34) Our hope is in GOD! The promise is that with repentance (individual and corporate) will come healing and new life (II Chron. 7:14). I believe God will do exactly that! If Christians will repent of their sins, and if we will repent for our nation and call upon God, He will heal our land.

We are not involved people in a political struggle. The field of battle in which we are involved is of far more consequence than any field of battle we have ever faced. Greater than Iwo Jima, Dunkerque, North Korea and Vietnam. We are involved in a battle and a struggle with total satanic force, which force is determined to thwart and to destroy the purpose of God for the United States of America. It is a spiritual battle which cannot be won with weapons of carnal nature. Satan wants to bring this nation to its knees in defeat.

We are declared a Christian nation. Let's hold back the forces that want to change it! 4



Message by Dr. Allan Hamilton - Pastor, Portland, Oregon Foursquare Church.

"The Bible promises us that righteousness in a spirit of repentance exalts a nation and opens the door for healing and new national life."

THE LOCAL CHURCH:

The year was 1973.

The Spirit of God began to burden the hearts of an evangelist and his wife for a 50-mile area in eastern Illinois. Serving as evangelists on the Great Lakes District, Reverend and Mrs. F. H. Toliver made Chatsworth, Illinois their home-base, which is 15 miles from the farming town of Melvin. Realizing that there was only one Pentecostal Church within a 50-mile radius of this town, they quickly recognized the great harvest field for the Full-Gospel message that lay at their fingertips. This represented a total of 16,500 square miles with a population of 175,000.

The burden for this area caused Reverend Toliver to seek out a building in several nearby towns for a possible Foursquare Church. He had no desire or plans to pastor this church, but only wanted to assist in its founding. God, Who is mindful of our every step, saw the desire and efforts of these burdened hearts and began to unfold a plan.

In the fall of '73, Reverend Toliver made the acquaintance of a Christian businessman, named Robert Hoover. Mr. Hoover, and a number of others from the Melvin area, had come to a personal knowledge of Christ through a denominational Lay Witness Program. Many of these converts had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and were conducting Sunday afternoon Prayer and Bible Studies in various homes.

Delighted to meet a minister who had experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Mr. Hoover extended an invitation to Reverend and Mrs. Toliver to attend one of these Home Bible Studies. Soon Reverend and Mrs. Toliver were

asked to teach the Study on a given Monday evening. By request, Reverend Toliver taught on the Gifts of the Spirit. Those attending the Bible Study were so thrilled with the teaching they requested that Reverend and Mrs. Toliver serve as their permanent teachers. The Tolivers agreed to this when they would not be away conducting evangelistic meetings. In their absence they arranged to have the pastor of the Bloomington Foursquare Church, which is 50 miles away, teach the Study.

With the burden for this area increasing, Reverend Toliver continued his search for a building in the spring of 1974 for a Foursquare Church. God led him to a beautiful brick church in Melvin which had been sold to an individual and had not been occupied for six years. Upon inquiry, he was told the building was for sale or could be leased.

At this time God began to speak to Reverend Toliver concerning his willingness to serve as the pastor of this church when it was established. It was not Reverend Toliver's intent to enlist any of the people attending the Bible Study to attend the Church. He looked to God to draw men and women by His Spirit to this church which would declare the Full-Gospel message.

Before it was known that a Foursquare Church was to open in Melvin, a family approached Reverend Toliver and stated that if he would begin a church in the area they would attend. It was their desire for their family to attend a church that preached the Full-Gospel message. This decision, they further stated, was arrived at, after prayer.

Upon meeting with Dr. M. E. Nicholls, then Supervisor of the Great Lakes District, encouragement was received to pioneer a church in

Melvin, Ill. Foursquare Church; Pastor Toliver teaching Adult Class; Primary Sunday School Class taught by Mrs. Roger Zehr; Mr. Robert Hoover teaching Junior Class.



Resurrecting an Empty Building with the Living Word in Melvin, Illinois



Melvin. Although this town has a population of only 550, there are towns nearly every five to eight miles.

And so God's plan for the birth of a Foursquare Church that declared the Full-Gospel message began to unfold as the building and lot were purchased. The building was structurally sound, but the roof leaked badly and other areas of the building needed attention. With assistance from the Foursquare Organization to purchase and renovate the building, funds were yet needed to fully prepare the church for use.

No plea was made for financial assistance from anyone to meet this added need, but as God began to move on interested folk, over \$1,550 in gifts was received before the first service was conducted.

The opening service of the Melvin Foursquare Church was held on July 28, 1974 with more than 140 registering and 123 in the evening service. Nearly two years since that opening service the church enjoys a good attendance with the Sunday evening service realizing a larger attendance than the Sunday morning service.

Since the opening service, work on the building has continued. Remodeling, the purchase of furnishings and equipment and the installation of a fiber glass baptistery and air-conditioning have taken place. The funds needed to carry on this work and to purchase this equipment was provided as God moved upon the hearts of the people to give. In the first full year of the church, a total of \$10,000 was paid in cash for improvements and new equipment as well as meeting the operating expenses of the church, which included the pastor's salary and paying their monthly loan payment. Three 50' x 150' lots and an eight-room house directly across from the church have been purchased as well. A portion of these lots will be used to provide parking area.

God has blessed the Melvin Foursquare Church with souls saved, bodies healed and lives delivered from the bonds of sin. Families have joined the church and one young man has responded to the call to the ministry. Each week people attend the church from seven to nine surrounding towns and villages. The church has an active youth group with five services conducted simultaneously on Wednesday evenings.

The founding of this church is a miracle of God. And miracles continue to take place through the ministries of this church. Pastor and Mrs. Toliver and the Melvin Foursquare congregation thank the Lord for raising up the Melvin Foursquare Church. They give Him the glory for all that has been accomplished in its near, two-year history. 4

Third in a series of reports from Denominational Profile Survey Dr. Vincent R. Bird

OUR SECOND GREATEST NEED

I Corinthians 12:22-25 (*Living Bible*, Paul is writing about the church as a body). "And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. Yes, we are especially glad to have some parts that seem rather odd! And we carefully protect from the eyes of others those parts that should not be seen, while of course the parts that may be seen do not require special care. So God has put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important. This makes for happiness among the parts so that the parts have the same care for each other that they do for themselves."

Recently, a lady said to me, "My husband and I have many friends but none that we can call close friends." The recent church profile reveals this as a voice of our Foursquare Church body of believers—the need for a closer friendship with those in the church.

Nearly 84% express this definite need among the membership. Predominantly high were those from the ages 18 through 29 years. Interestingly, the men were somewhat higher than the women.

Three-fourths of those surveyed believed there needs to be more openness and honesty among the members of the body. Even the youth were impressed of this need.

The Apostle Paul speaks of the weaker and the stronger, but that all are needed! Our people really feel it is important to them, personally, to know that they belong and are accepted in the church. Ninety-five percent shouted loud and clear in the affirmative.

Some methods to bring a closer fellowship is sometimes accomplished by social events. The survey revealed a definite balance as to how often such events are held. All expressed a desire for social fellowship both in a church-wide affair and also within a small group.

A large percentage felt a closeness could be accomplished by meeting in a small group to share personal experiences. Some felt the need to meet as often as once a week.

We surely must evaluate our church program. Are we service-centered where a passing handshake and a "God bless you" becomes the formula? It seems we hear voices saying, "Don't just look on the outside of me—please look on the inside where I really hurt—and care for me!" 4

Three-fourths of our members are seeking more from their inter-church relationships.



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE:

President of Guatemala Replies To Convention Body's Message:

(The following letter was received from the office of President Kjell Laugerud of Guatemala:)

Mr. Rolf K. McPherson
President of the International
Church of the Foursquare
Gospel
1100 Glendale Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90026

Mr. President:

Very attentively and with instructions of the President of the Republic, I have the pleasure of directing myself to you, to acknowledge receipt of your note on the 20th of the last month, February, in which you express your condolences to the people and the government of Guatemala because of the earthquake which occurred the 4th day of February of 1976.

This High Functionary appreciates very sincerely the help that you have served to the Guatemalan brothers, that need it so much.

I take this opportunity to sign this, as your attentive and assenting servant,
Mario Enrique Paiz Rolanos

Missions Director Reports On Special Trip To Guatemala

Dr. Leland Edwards, Director of Foreign Missions, recently visited earthquake-stricken Guatemala. The purpose of this trip was to meet with Rev. and Mrs. Irvin Espeseth, Supervisors of the Foursquare work there, view, first-

hand, the damage to our churches and assess the need, and minister to our missionaries and national pastors.

Our five churches in Guatemala City suffered little damage, reports Dr. Edwards. However, in outlying cities and towns, nine Foursquare Churches were totally destroyed and the homes of hundreds of Foursquare members crumbled to the ground. Several members of our national pastors' families lost their lives in the quake.

Dr. Edwards further reports that in several of the towns where we lost churches, reconstruction has already begun with work soon to take place in the other areas. A large supply of tracts, Testaments and food were taken to the pastors and the needy where Dr. Edwards and Missionary Espeseth visited. Rev. Espeseth has made many trips to many of the affected areas to assist in the relief work.

Where churches were destroyed or only slightly damaged, special meetings have been conducted, many in the open air. Large numbers have accepted Christ at these services. In one church, 34 new converts (since the earthquake) were baptized in water. New convert's classes are being conducted as well.

On behalf of the Foreign Mission's Department, Dr. Edwards expresses thanks and appreciation to our Foursquare family and friends for the generous financial response and prayer support re-

ceived to meet the emergency in Guatemala. This response has made it possible for our missionaries to carry on a very effective relief work.

DATELINE: Latin America

Mexico—During the month of March, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph K. Knapp, conducted **revival services** in six of the churches every night, according to Missionary Ludwig Mantei.

Dr. Knapp preached with unusual liberty as the anointing came upon him and the Spirit of the Lord moved upon the people. **Souls were saved** every night and **five were baptized in the Holy Spirit**. One woman testified that her home became so filled with problems that she discontinued attending church. During one revival service the Lord dealt with her and the next morning she came to the missionary's home to give her **offering of 100 pesos**. God changed her life from a life of problems to a life of victory.

God has answered prayer! The Mexican Youth Mountain Camp **well is dug** and God has given a good supply of **water**. In past years, during the camping season, water had to be brought in. Phil and Carol Kitts are in charge of the Mexican Youth Camp projects. God has met their needs during this past year. Phil is a dedicated, building contractor, stepping out in faith.

Panama—For several years the Panamanian church leaders have been praying for an evangelistic campaign that would make an impact upon



Above: Laurie Aldrich,
Missionary Assistant
appointed to the Orient;
Below left - Dr. Leland
Edwards present for
laying of cornerstone of
Foursquare Church,
Colonial San Francisco
in Guatemala City;
Below right - Recent
Water Baptismal Service
in Guatemala.





the city. When they learned that Rev. Claude Updike would be with them, they went to work preparing for a **large outdoor meeting**. Rev. Updike returned to Panama after a 23 year absence to conduct one of the most successful evangelistic campaigns Panama has realized in recent years. Each night the **attendance continued to build** until there was an estimated 2,000 people crowding the lot on Central Avenue. As the simple invitation to accept Christ was given each night the people pressed forward to **accept Christ**. Some 900 made first-time decisions.

Some very outstanding **healings** took place during this three-week campaign. One man stated that he was instantly healed of five afflictions including diabetes. The owner of a large downtown hotel attended most of the meetings. She invited several to a banquet in her hotel and she was **able to eat** all the sweets on the table because the Lord had healed her of diabetes. On the final Sunday she asked prayer for her poor eyesight. When she arrived home, she was amazed to find she could **easily read** the fine print on her identification card. One boy, a **deaf mute**, was able to say "Amen" and "Praise the Lord" after God loosed his tongue!

The revival group ministered to a congregation located near the Tocumen International Airport where a former student of Rev. Updike's

now ministers. Among the large group that came forward for prayer, was a lady with a very sick child in her arms. During the prayer, the child's **fever instantly disappeared**. The mother was so happy, she just wanted to shout!

The impact made by these special meetings will be felt in Panama for years to come.

DATELINE: Asia

Philippines—To more than 9,000 despairing, utterly wretched men in the **Bilibid Prison** outside Manila, Mommy (as she is called by the inmates), is the one glimmer of hope, the one proof that love and compassion exist in the world. When Missionary Olga Robertson went inside the Bilibid Prison for the first time in 1957, the guards said, "If you go in there, you go in at your own risk." Olga replied, "I'll go in."

In Bilibid, prisoners are cooped up in huge buildings, about 100 to a single large cell. They sleep on mats on the floor. There's one entrance, a two-foot square door, placed so low that you have to crawl in on your hands and knees. Olga had the guard open that door and she **crawled through**. There she stood—a single woman, defenseless, unarmed, and simply trusting God to use her according to His will. She stood in the presence of murderers, robbers, criminally insane men—men who had known every imaginable kind of evil deed. But **God kept her safe**.

On that first day, she was

appalled by the **need**. Because of the crowding, the **filth** and the scarcity of soap and water, many men had skin diseases. One prisoner has a cut in his forehead, the result of a knifing. Some prisoners had **tuberculosis**. Others simply sat, blank faced on the floor, no longer caring, no longer expecting or even wanting anything at all.

Olga read to the men from the **Bible**. She encouraged them to **sing** with her, but few responded. She then urged them to **pray** with her, but still few responded. However, she returned to this building and to many others like it week after week, month after month, and year after year, taking medicine, soap, vitamins, Bibles and literature. She has been able to tell the **Good News of Jesus Christ** day after day for all these years and many hardened criminals have **accepted Christ** as their personal Saviour. The message of hope has been embraced by many behind the walls of Bilibid Prison.

District Missionary Giving

District	Jan.-Apr. 1976
Angelus Temple	\$81,113.80
Eastern	44,657.10
Eastern Canada	3,232.02
Great Lakes	57,379.71
Midwest	54,920.64
Northwest	69,803.14
South Central	28,673.00
Southeast	22,308.75
So. California	78,169.27
Southwest	69,626.80
Western	47,135.45
Western Canada	22,233.35

Above left: Food distribution to earthquake victims in Guatemala; Above - Missionaries Espeseths instruct in evangelism outreach to meet spiritual needs in Guatemala.



Marna Miller, Missionary Assist appointee to Latin America.



Cathy Geesaman, Missionary Assist appointee to Latin America.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE:



By Dr. Guy P. Duffield

OUR HERITAGE

"This amazing inheritance is one of the direct results of being children of God."

One of the themes that is being brought to the attention of the American public during this, our Bicentennial year, is that of our heritage as citizens of this great nation. Certainly we are rich in spiritual and moral principles and examples bequeathed by those who laid the foundations of this republic. If a house is dependent upon the security of its foundation for its lasting qualities, a nation likewise can survive only if its founding fathers were conscious of the importance of building for and with God. How great a responsibility rests upon us, in our time, not to forsake the rock of integrity upon which they so solidly built! We are rich in the principles these great men and women left to us.

Likewise our heavenly Father has left, to those who will believe and follow in His way, a great and lasting heritage. Perhaps, nowhere is this legacy more succinctly summarized than in I Peter 1:1-5. Here the great Apostle is writing to the early Christians who, because of intense persecution, were scattered throughout the provinces of ancient Asia Minor. He calls them "strangers." Indeed, they were strangers and pilgrims. The world looked upon them as peculiar because of their faith and practice, but God views them entirely different and His view is the one that really counts. Notice four things about these citizens of the heavenly kingdom:

1. *They are the Chosen of God.* "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (vs. 2). We do not understand everything about God's electing foreknowledge, but it is blessed to know that we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4). In His great foreknowledge, the Father saw us in Christ Jesus and chose those whom He saw for the blessings of everlasting life.

2. *They are the Children of God.* "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (vs. 3). Christians are God's children because they have been born again (John 3:3; I Pet. 1:13). We are members of the family of God. He loves us. He has taken upon Himself the responsibility of protecting and providing for those who are His own. Each Christian has a responsibility to endeavor to become more and more like the One Who has begotten him. Others are looking at you and are dependent upon you for an example of what God's family is like. May we learn to yield more and more to the ministry of the Holy Spirit Who came to glorify Christ! This He seeks to do within and through each one in the household of God.

3. *They are heirs of God.* "To an inheritance . . ." (I Pet. 1:4). This is one of the direct results of being children of God. Paul says, in Romans 8:17, ". . . if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." This is one of the most amazing parts of our heritage in Christ Jesus. It might seem beyond our comprehension that God should make us heirs of the blessings of His kingdom, but when we are told that we have become "joint-heirs" with the Son of God, Himself, this surpasses all. If my brother and I are named joint-heirs of a certain estate he cannot inherit one whit more than I. We must share alike in that which is part of the inheritance. Can it be that this is what our Father intends for us—that we should share and share alike with His only begotten Son?

4. *They are kept by the power of God* (Verse 5). "But," I hear someone sigh, "the way is long and the temptations are many. Will I be able to hold out to the end?" No, you probably will not be able, but there is One Who is Almighty, and He has promised to keep you. "Kept by the power of God." This expression literally means "guarded in the power of God." He has promised to encircle us in His arms of love and power. "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever" (Psa. 125:2). "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Prov. 18:10). Is there not something I must do? Yes, the text says, "Who are kept by the power of God *through faith* unto salvation." Our part, you see, is to believe; His part is to keep us.

All of these blessings of our great heritage in Christ Jesus are ours if we will only believe and constantly trust Him to bring to pass that which He has most surely promised to us! [4]

RAYMOND COX: *current events* & *comments*

Sometime ago I came home from pastoral calling in time to catch the last quarter of a televised Monday night football game. The team I was rooting for was behind. Everything I saw on the screen looked discouraging, but it did not discourage me. I knew my team would win. I knew I would view a miraculous finish.

How did I know? It wasn't faith in prayers. I only pray for the USC Trojans. Then how did I know?

Because the telecast was a rerun. The Portland ABC affiliate delays the games one full hour. The game was already over before I started viewing. But I had heard the miraculous finish over the car radio en route home.

Similarly, history is a rerun of prophecy to a very large extent. God has already announced the results! As Ray Mossholder puts it, "I have read the last page of the Bible, and it says, WE WIN!"

The present century has witnessed an avalanche of prophetic fulfillments unparalleled in the history of the world, except for the period of Christ's life on earth. Among the Jews, the Gentiles and the Church, which represent the three categories into which God sorts mankind, unprecedented wonders have been unfolding. For the first time in the church age we are seeing religious movements which have cooled off or even apostasized being swept by the winds of spiritual renewal. The organizational machinery may remain in the hands of the unspiritual, but in virtually every area of historic Christendom God is moving by His Spirit, pouring out His Spirit on all kinds of flesh, as Joel the prophet of Pentecost predicted.

Among the nations of the world circumstances are developing which presage the appearance of Antichrist, while in Israel multitudes rendezvous, fulfilling Bible prophecy. Surely the time is at hand. Psalm 102:16 reveals, "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory." But He is coming for His Church even before that appearance. Are you really ready for the rapture? Quite soon that prophecy of I Thessalonians 4:16-17 may rerun and become history! [4]



BOOK BRIEFS:

The Charles G. Finney Memorial Library, by Charles G. Finney, Kregel, \$13.50 a set (8 books).

A library consisting of: four books in the Evangelistic Sermon Series; three books in the Revival Sermon Series; and one book on Sermons On Prayer. These messages speak to our day and call for a voice from God, a resounding clarion call for return to the Biblical standard of Christian life and the God-ordained plan of redemption and revival.

You Can Have A Family Where Everybody Wins, by Earl H. Gaulke, Concordia, \$1.95.

The author, who is a pastor, editor and father shows Christian parents how love works, so everybody wins. Using a different approach, Dr. Gaulke has established quite convincingly that psychological principles can be applied in a way consistent with Christian doctrine.

Running Out, by W. Dayton Roberts, Regal, \$1.95.

The author deals with the question, "How are you, as a Christian, going to live in a world where everything (food, air, water and land) is running out?" The inevitable question of survival challenges our life style, both now and in the future.

Miracle in Moscow, by David Benson, Regal, \$3.95.

A remarkable story of the spiritual odyssey of a young Christian who was called of God to evangelize the Russians. While in Russia, the author was hounded by the Secret Police and caught up in a fantastic plot initiated by Khruschev which results in the closing of 10,000 churches in four years. Through it all, David Benson points up the unlimited power of a triumphant Christ.

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn, by John Calvin Reid, Regal, \$0.95.

For those seeking comfort, hope and peace after the death of a loved one, this mini book will prove a source of strength and blessing.

How to Plan & Organize Year-Round Bible Ministries, edited by Margaret M. Self, Regal, \$2.25.

This practical "how to" guidebook explains a wide variety of Bible ministries—Vacation Bible School, backyard Bible school or neighborhood Bible club, day camp, family camp, holiday VBS, choir tour, work week and other outreach programs. Specific help is given for recruiting, training, organizing, publicity and much more.



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